

In the Claims:

Kindly amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) Device for exerting a return force on at least one harness element of the harness of a Jacquard weaving machine, comprising at least one return spring (2) provided with means of attachment (1) for attaching the return spring (2) to retaining means (4) immovably provided, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said means of attachment (1) are provided with a positioning opening (6) for positioning the means of attachment (1) with respect to the retaining means (4), and a fixing opening (7) for fixing the means of attachment (1) to the retaining means (4), a spring connection (8) being provided between the positioning opening (6) and the fixing opening (7), such that the means of attachment (1) are able to move from the positioning opening (6) to the fixing opening (7) with respect to the retaining means (4), but will be unable, after having been fixed with respect to the retaining means (4), to move back from the fixing opening (7) to the positioning opening (6) during operation or transport of the Jacquard machine.

2. (currently amended) Device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the positioning opening (6), where it is connected to the fixing opening (7), is provided with a beveled edge (10) in order to guide the motion of the means of attachment (1) with respect to the retaining means (4) from the positioning opening (6) to the fixing opening (7).

3. (currently amended) Device according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the fixing opening (7), where it is connected to the positioning opening (6), is provided with a sharp and practically flat edge (9), such that after fixing the means of attachment (1) with respect to the retaining means (4), the means of attachment will be unable to move back from the fixing opening (7) to the positioning opening (6) during operation or transport of the Jacquard machine.

4. (currently amended) Device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the spring connection (8) between the positioning opening (6) and the fixing opening (7) is provided with at least two protrusions (11a, 11b), situated opposite one another.

5. (currently amended) Device according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the protrusion which is situated in the spring connection (8) on the side of the fixing opening (7), is provided to engage a recess (12), which is provided in the means of attachment (4).

6. (currently amended) Device according to ~~anyone of the claims 1 through 5~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the means of attachment are carried out in the form of a flat bar (4), at least one recess (5) being provided on at least one side of the flat bar (4) in order to fix the means of attachment (1) to the flat bar (4).

7. (currently amended) Device according to claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least one recess (5) is provided

on two sides of the flat bar (4), in order to fix the means of attachment (1) to the flat bar (4).

8. (currently amended) Device according to claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the flat bar (4) on the two sides is provided with several recesses (5) in order to be able to fix several means of attachment (1) to the flat bar (4).

9. (currently amended) Device according to ~~anyone of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the means of attachment (1) are made of synthetic material.

10. (currently amended) Device for immovably installing the means of attachment (4) of one or several return springs (2) of a Jacquard weaving machine, the device being provided with at least two fixed installing elements (13) for installing the retaining means (4), ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said installing elements (13) are provided with one or several recesses in order to apply the retaining means (1).

11. (currently amended) Device according to claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said installing elements have the shape of a tube, in each tube (13) one or several grooves being provided in order to insert the retaining means (1).

12. (currently amended) Device according to claim 10 ~~or~~ ~~11~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said retaining means consist of a flat bar (4), several recesses being provided on two sides of the flat bar (4) for fixing several return springs (2) to the flat bar (4), and the other two sides of the flat bar (4) being provided to be inserted into the said grooves of the tubes (13).

13. (currently amended) Device according to claim 12,
~~characterized in that~~ wherein said tubes (13) may be put at an
overpressure or an subatmospheric pressure, in order to keep said
flat bars (4) free from dust.